

of the first volume of the *Reise*. His account of the plant is as follows (the English being that of Morrison's translation):

"We continued the way we had come [along the Juniata River in Bedford County, Pennsylvania], over Crossing-hill, Rays-hill, and Sideling-hill, and spent the night at MacDonald's tavern, where the coffee is drunk out of tin-ware, there are potatoes to eat, and straw to sleep upon, and a prodigiously dear reckoning.

Here we were introduced to still another domestic tea-plant, a variety of *Solidago*.¹ The leaves were gathered and dried over a slow fire. It was said that around Fort Littleton many 100 pounds of this Bohea-tea, as they call it, had been made as long as the Chinese was scarcer. Our hostess praised its good taste, but this was not conspicuous in what she brewed."

It is evident that the plant discussed is that commonly known as *Solidago odora*, a name published by Aiton in 1789, for not only does the description apply certainly to *S. odora*, but the Plukenet citation also refers to the same species.² Since Schoepf's name was published a year earlier than Aiton's, the former is the one which must be adopted. It is noteworthy that the now unfamiliar name hereafter to be applied to this plant, one of the two or three easily recognizable species of *Solidago*, is fully as descriptive and distinctive of the plant as the name it displaces, being, in fact, practically synonymous with it. The essential synonymy of the species is summarized below.

SOLIDAGO SUAVEOLENS Schoepf, *Reise Ver. Nordamer. Staaten* i. 466 (1788). *S. odora* Ait Hort. Kew. iii. 214 (1789). *S. retrorsa* Michx. Fl. Bor. Amer. ii. 117 (1803). *S. puncticulata* DC. Prodr. v. 332 (1836). The type locality is presumably in Bedford County, Pennsylvania.

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM, Washington, D. C.

AN UNUSUAL *DAUCUS CAROTA*.—Miss Emily F. Fletcher recently brought to the Gray Herbarium a very striking specimen of *Daucus Carota* L. in which nearly half of the compound umbel, instead of

¹ *SOLIDAGO suaveolens*; foliis lanceolato-linearibus, integerrimis, acutis, subquinque-nerviis, punctatis, glabris, tenerrime ciliatis.—Virga aurea americana, tarraconis facie & sapore, panicula speciosissima. *Pluk. alm. p.* 389. *tab.* 116. *f.* 6.—A species similar to this grows about New York, and has a pleasant odor of anise, noticeable also in the plant here, but weaker; no doubt because it was already late in the season and it had suffered from the cold.

² Gray, *Syn. Fl. N. Amer.* i. pt. 2, 151 (1884).

having the customary white, merely pale-roseate or occasionally very light yellow petals, has them prevailing of the rich deep violet (making the impression almost of black) which is familiar in dark central flower commonly present. Miss Fletcher states that the plant was found by Miss Harriet M. Hodgman, at Westford, Massachusetts, August, 1918, on the land of Mr. Charles O. Prescott.

Reference to the readily available literature on teratology brought out the fact that Penzig, *Pflanzen-Teratol.* i. 523 (1890), reports having observed not rarely individuals of *Daucus Carota* in which the single apical dark flower was replaced by a terminal umbellet of which most or all of the flowers were dark. Pluskal, *Oester. Bot. Zeitschr.* i. 228 (1851), discussing earlier the same phenomenon, mentions the fact that he had a Carrot umbel in which most of the flowers in one of the peripheral umbellets had the same dark brown color. This he stated to be a great rarity.

Kronfeld, who applied the name "anthocyanic flowers" (*Anthokyanblüthen*) to these dark-petaled structures, discussed them briefly, *Bot. Centralbl.* xlix. 11 (1892), stating that the central one is not sterile as often supposed but cleistogamous and fertile. He also suggests that these dark flowers are the result of inherited gall-formation. The literature of the subject seems rather slight and unsatisfactory.

In the plant from Westford about 12 of the umbellets constituting between a third and a half of the whole inflorescence are dark-petaled. These occur on one side of the compound umbel, being disposed from near the center to the periphery. They do not take the place of the apical dark flower for that is present as usual. In some of these dark-flowered umbellets all the petals are of uniform dark rich violet, in others the greater part of them are dark, but some even in the same flowers are white or deep purple striped with white. Except for their unusual color the flowers appear to be normal.

The inflorescence at first sight suggests that it must have been affected by some smut or other such influence but this does not appear to have been the case.

The striking and interesting specimen here described will be preserved in Miss Fletcher's herbarium. A photograph of it has been taken for record in the Gray Herbarium.—B. L. ROBINSON.